



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 February 1967
1 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Former prime minister Tran Van Huong is emerging as a potential civilian presidential candidate who would have the support of southern regionalists. He wants the job and probably will throw his hat into the ring when the time comes, according to a US Embassy officer who visited him yesterday.

The embassy officer found Huong to be an intelligent and strong-minded man, but no strong believer in democracy. As president, he would try to be a strong, paternalistic leader. Huong understands the need for military-civilian cooperation, but he keenly remembers his troubles with the military when he was prime minister. He is clearly thinking of a civilian government in which the military would be kept in a subordinate role.

2. North Vietnam

50X1

50X1

3. Communist China

The army is now clearly emerging as the prime instrument for reestablishing order.

Yesterday Peking broadcast what amounts to a blueprint for the military in straightening out those provinces where disorder exists. The broadcast identifies "anarchism" as the chief danger, an implicit criticism of Maoist revolutionaries. It also stresses the importance of "production." [redacted]

[redacted] wall posters show that the army is increasingly active in civil affairs.

50X1

50X1

Radical revolutionary groups are still causing trouble in some provinces, but troops are now being used to arrest their leaders and, in some cases, disband their organizations.

4. Latin America

Perhaps as many as four presidents will not attend the inter-American summit. Arosemena of Ecuador and Belaunde of Peru could well boycott--mainly because of their dispute with the United States over fishing rights. Barrientos of Bolivia insists he will stay away unless Bolivia's access to the sea is on the agenda. He seems amenable to a face-saving formula on this, however. We have already noted that Duvalier will remain in Haiti.

5. Aden

A new wave of violence in Aden is expected to follow the killing of a number of prominent Arab nationalists. In the last three days, a former cabinet minister was shot, an ex-premier's home was bombed and three of his sons killed, and two men were trampled to death at the sons' funeral. The chaos has produced a general strike.

What lies behind all this, we believe, is a feud between the two main terrorist groups which are fighting for position in anticipation of the British pullout next year.

50X1

Top Secret